ACTION PHILOSOPHER #22: IMMANUEL KANT!

Written by Fred Van Lente

ONE

Panel 1: Establishing shot of the sprawling, retro-futuristic city COGNOPOLIS. Feel free to be inspired by that *Metropolis* poster on your wall.

1. CAPTION: COGNOPOLIS: Capital city of TRUTH!

2. GOD (in bldg.): I got this from the MAIN COURTHOUSE in REASON TOWERS this morning!

3. GOD (in bldg.): I've been INDICTED as a "TRANSCENDENTAL ILLUSION"! I don't even know what the heck that IS…

4. GOD (n bldg.): …and I'M OMNISCIENT!

Panel 2: POV of a law office – the camera is looking over the indictment, which says, in florid script, "TRANSCENDENTAL ILLUSION". We can see over the top of the paper to a figure sitting on the other side of the desk – but the figure is darkened.

5. KANT (OFF): Hmmm… I'm afraid these charges are quite SERIOUS, sir.

6. KANT (OFF): Simply PUT, you've been accused of being a figment of PURE REASON, as opposed to an external OBJECT existing in the WORLD.

7. KANT (OFF): If the authorities prove your NON-EXISTENCE, you'll be EXPELLED from Cognopolis within the WEEK!

Panel 3: It's GOD sitting on the other side of the desk!

8. GOD: But – I'm the architect and creator of the UNIVERSE, the SUPREME, all-sufficient and absolutely necessary BEING!

9. GOD: They can't DO this to me!!

Panel 4: SPLASH PANEL: Behind his desk, smoking on his pipe like a 1950's TV hero, is Immanuel Kant (dressed the same in the painting).

10. KANT: You did the RIGHT THING by coming here, GOD.

11. GOD (OFF): I saw your AD on a BENCH!

12. KANT: THESE kinds of cases are the SPECIALTY of ACTION PHILOSOPHER #22:

13. LOGO: **Immanuel Kant**
EPISTEMOLOGICAL ATTORNEY

14. CREDITS: Court Stenographer: FRED VAN LENTE
Trial Artist: RYAN DUNLAVEY

TWO

Panel 1: *Law & Order* panel: Just a little block that says (I will do in lettering):

Trial Part B
09:15:06 Hours
June the 16th

Panel 2: AUDIE BULL sits on the witness stand. He is a worker, as he will attest, from the Auditory part of Sensuous Flats, and as such, wears janitorial type coveralls with an EAR symbol over one breast. He wears a worker-type cap and has really, really big ears.

1. SCIENTIST (OFF): Your NAME, sir?

2. AUDIE: AUDIE. Audie BULL.

3. SCIENTIST (OFF): And your OCCUPATION?

Panel 3: The Hearing Plant: as you'll no doubt figure out, this whole sequence is very much inspired by the last sequence of Woody Allen's *Everything You Wanted to Know About Sex But Were Afraid to Ask.* Audie supervises his similarly overall-wearing working push along (with long-handled brooms) spindles of comic book sound effects that spool out, along strips of various widths, from a large machine that takes up one entire wall of the factory. As the "Big I" is asleep, these sound effects are: ***ZZZZZZZZZZZ***, ***meow***, and ***tick-tock, tick-tock, tick-tock***

4. CAPTION: "I'm the GRAVEYARD SHIFT SUPERVISOR at the HEARING PLANT down in SENSUOUS FLATS."

5. CAPTION: "I LIKE the work. The Big I tends to be ASLEEP when I'm there, so usually it's pretty mellow."

Panel 4: Our MAD SCIENTIST, who is the prosecutor of this case, with Audie, who throws up his hands defensively. Mucho dialoguo.

6. SCIENTIST: You are no doubt familiar with the alleged ONTOLOGICAL PROOF of the defendant's existence.

7. SCIENTIST: In YOUR professional judgment—

8. AUDIE: Whoa! Hey! Hold up there!

9. AUDIE: UNION RULES say we don't got to do no JUDGMENTS in Sensuous Flats!

10. AUDIE: We're just WORKIN' STIFFS! We haul RAW DATA to them eggheads in UNDERSTANDING HEIGHTS for all that fancy-schamncy thinkin' and reasonin'!

Panel 5: Close on the condescendingly smiling scientist-prosecutor.

11. SCIENTIST: Of COURSE. Let me REPHRASE:

12. SCIENTIST: SOME say that we could not conceive of the IDEA of the defendant without an OBJECT corresponding to that idea actually EXISTING.

MORE

TWO, CON'D

Panel 6: Visual demonstration of difference between *a priori* and *a posteriori* knowledge: A head floats in the middle of the panel, looking outward to a tree. In front of the head's vision and the tree is labeled "**a posteriori**" but behind him is the swirling world of the mind, of cognition – this is labeled "**a priori**".

13. CAPTION:	"But what we know of EXISTENCE comes ONLY *a posteriori* (AFTER empirical experience)…
14. CAPTION:	…NOT as pure conceptions of the mind BEFORE (*a priori)* experience that are INDEPENDENT of sensuous impressions!"

THREE

Panel 1: A stopwatch with NO HANDS lists on a table – cobwebs grow from it, indicating no time is passing.

1. CAPTION: "And it is IMPOSSIBLE to have EXPERIENCE of objects that are not in TIME and SPACE – the two PURE FORMS of sensuous impressions!"

2. CAPTION: "For without TIME, the Big I would have no sense of CHANGE… Existence would be purely STATIC."

Panel 2: A tiny dot in the center of the panel … with cartoon EYES on it.

3. CAPTION: "And without SPACE, we would have no sense of an EXTERNAL WORLD – the Big I would have no sense of anything existing OUTSIDE HIMSELF!"

4. DOT (THOUGHT): My Being … ugh! … is a little … CONSTIPATED!

Panel 3: A hand stamp (marked **EXPERIENCE**) is brought away from a dumb brain, where it has just been stamped with the world "REAL". The dumb brain is buck-toothed, with its tongue hanging out.

5. CAPTION: "We of COGNOPOLIS term these *a posteriori* impressions from a space/time object INTUITIONS…"

6. CAPTION: "…and intuitions of the AUDITORY SENSE it is YOUR job to GATHER, Mr. Bell."

Panel 4: Fairly large panel, as Scientist indicates four workers, former witnesses, sitting in the front row of the gallery; all wear similar but slightly different overalls than Audie:

- A GUY WITH BIG EYES/EYEGLASSES with an EYE symbol over one breast;
- A GUY WITH A HUGE NOSE with a NOSE symbol over one breast;
- A WOMAN WITH A HUGE MOUTH and a TONGUE over one breast;
- A GUY WITH A HUGE PAIR OF HANDS on a HAND symbol over one breast.

7. SCIENTIST (OFF): The court has already heard TESTIMONY from your colleagues at VISION STATION… The OL' FACTORY… The TASTETORIUM… AND Touch Terminal…

8. SCIENTIST (OFF): …NONE of them have EVER received intuitions of a SUPREME BEING.

MORE

THREE, CON'D

Panel 5: On the stand, Audie hesitates before answering, looking over at the defendant's table, where God sits next to Kant. Scientist stands nearby.

9. SCIENTIST: Have YOU?

10. AUDIE: Uh… well…

11. SCIENTIST: Need I remind you you are under OATH, Mr. Bell?

Panel 6: God gnashes his teeth like a mob boss under indictment as the gallery erupts in murmurs behind him.

12. AUDIE (OFF): …NO, sir.

13. AUDIE (OFF): The HEARING PLANT has NEVER received any AUDIO INTUITION that the defendant EXISTS in SPACE/TIME.

14. SFX: ***GASP! MURMUR MURMUR***

FOUR

Panel 1: The Judge bangs angrily with her gavel. Just for the hell of it, let's have her look like the Maria robot from *Metropolis*.

1. JUDGE: That's ENOUGH! Order in the COURT!

2. SFX: ***BANG! BANG!***

3. JUDGE: YOUR WITNESS, Mr. Kant.

Panel 2: God is stunned that Kant, rising, declines to cross-examine the witness.

4. KANT: The defense has NO QUESTIONS for this witness, Your Honor.

5. GOD: !!!

Panel 3: The bailiff, which instead of a head has a brain floating over his neck stump wearing horn-rimmed glasses, calls out the name of the next witness.

6. JUDGE (OFF): Very well. Thank you, Mr. Bell, you are EXCUSED.

7. BAILIFF: NEXT witness: Doctor A. PERCEPTION, Ph.D., of the Understanding Heights SYNTHSTITUTE.

Panel 4: Dr. Perception on the witness stand – he is literally an EGGHEAD, a guy in a suit with a huge egg for a head, wearing Groucho glasses and a little hat on top of his head. (*Pure Reason* 31)

8. SCIENTIST (OFF): Tell the jury a little bit about what you DO, Doctor.

9. PERCEPTION: Well, we at the Synthstitute like to say we're in the TRUTH business…

10. PERCEPTION: …which is the "accordance of a COGNITION with its OBJECT."

Panel 5: The doctor and his fellow Eggheads do what they do: receive the three SOUND EFFECTS strips that the hearing plant produced in the earlier panel. They examine pegs on the wall, which have three pictures over them – one is snoring person; one is a cat; one is an alarm clock.

11. CAPTION: "When we receive INTUITIONS from Sensuous Flats, we MATCH THEM with the proper CONCEPTION."

Panel 6: The Eggheads correctly hang "**ZZZZ"** under the snorer, "**meow"** under the cat, the "**tick-tock"** under the clock.

12. CAPTION: "In order to get KNOWLEDGE, you can't have ONE with the OTHER!"

13. CAPTION: "In a SYNTHETICAL cognition, you AUGMENT an intuition with a conception."

Panel 7: A triangle with its three corners circled and numbered 1-2-3.

14. CAPTION: "Or, in the case on an ANALYTICAL cognition, the conception is contained WITHIN the intuition itself…"

15. CAPTION: "…like, you know, a TRIANGLE is BY DEFINITION a THREE-SIDED object."

FIVE

Panel 1: Prosecutor & Witness.

1. SCIENTIST: Just so we're CLEAR, Doctor: is it NECESSARY for there to be incoming SENSE DATA to form COGNITIONS?

2. PERCEPTION: Ohhh NO, not at all!

Panel 2: Ryan tries to draw a straight line between two dots on a piece of paper, but it's too wavy, and looks like crap. He's frustrated. *(Pure Reason* 73)

3. CAPTION: "In our IMAGINATION department, we can represent an object even WITHOUT its presence in the senses."

4. CAPTION: "And, just as we render sensations INTELLIGIBLE, we also render ABSTRACT conceptions SENSUOUS – such as a 'LINE', which doesn't exist in REALITY until we MAKE it so."

5. RYAN (THOUGHT): Since I lost my !@#$! RULER it's been gettin' in the way of my REALITY!!

Panel 3: Dr. Perception stands at the entrance to the Institute. On other side of him is a door – One marked "**INTUITIONS",** where a worker from the Ol' Factory (Big Nose Guy) enters with a garbage can filled with stinky sense data … and through the other door, marked "**IDEAS**", a snooty butler type approaches with a gleaming word "**EGO**" on a silver platter.

6. CAPTION: "AND Objects CAN originate from INSIDE THE MIND – these are 'IDEAS', which are not SENSE OBJECTS, but NECESSARY conceptions of REASON."

Panel 4: Prosecutor step aside so Witness can point toward…

7. SCIENTIST: And do you SEE any such TRANSCENDENTAL OBJECTS here in the COURTROOM today?

8. PERCEPTION: Why, YES…

Panel 5: A furious God leaps up, pounding a fist on the table. Kant tries to restrain him.

9. PERCEPTION (OFF): …the DEFENDANT!

10. GOD: ***LIES! ALL LIES!***

11. GOD: I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS FACULTY OF COGNITION BEFORE IN MY LIFE!!

12. JUDGE (OFF): ***ORDER! ORDER!***

13. JUDGE (OFF): BAILIFFS, RESTRAIN THE DEFENDANT!!

SIX

Panel 1: God has been tied to his chair and gagged, Bobby Seale-style. Kant buries his face in his hands in embarrassment.

1. SCIENTIST (OFF): Now that I may proceed >*ahem!*< UNINTERRUPTED…

2. SCIENTIST (OFF): …I'd like to draw your attention to the so-called COSMOLOGICAL PROOF of the defendant's existence, Doctor.

Panel 2: STAT THE LAST PANEL OF PAGE EIGHTEEN OF ACTION PHILOSOPHERS #6: St. Thomas Aquinas lifts up a curtain to show God about to knock down dominoes.

3. CAPTION: "In THIS tidy bit of SOPHISTRY, it is asserted that because the Big I exists, God MUST exist by the law of CAUSE-and-EFFECT…that without a NECESSARY BEING to set existence in motion in the FIRST PLACE, nothing would exist at all!"

5. CAPTION: "How would YOU respond?"

Panel 3: Doctor Egghead responds.

6. PERCEPTION: The Law of Cause-and-Effect is a rather STICKY WICKET for professionals in my field, sir.

7. PERCEPTION: For ONE thing, it is IMPOSSIBLE to prove empirically…

8. PERCEPTION: …but WITHOUT it, empirical experience CANNOT EXIST!!

9. SCIENTIST (OFF): But how is that POSSIBLE, Doctor?

Panel 4: Girl puts ice cube tray filled with water in the freezer. There have been two eyeholes slit in the freezer.

10. CAPTION: "Cause-and-effect cannot be OBSERVED, and therefore it cannot be part of empirical EXPERIENCE."

11. CAPTION: "We all 'KNOW', for example, that when you FREEZE water, it becomes ICE, yes?"

Panel 5: Girl's eyes are getting tired as she tries to watch ice tray freeze while it lies inside the freezer.

12. CAPTION: "But WHY? Have you ever SEEN water FREEZE?"

13. GIRL (THOUGHT): Geez, this is BORING… >Yawn!<

14. CAPTION: "Of course not … You just go away, and when you come BACK, it's ICE! That establishes no definitive CAUSAL relationship – nor can you EVER establish one…"

Panel 6: Scientist shows a big chart labeled "EXHIBIT A" to the judge.

15. PERCEPTION: …at least, not through the SENSES!

16. SCIENTIST: May it please the COURT ... People's Exhibit "A"!

17. SCIENTIST: A table of the *a priori* CONCEPTIONS of the understanding … the CATEGORIES!

SEVEN

Ryan, these should be broken up into four panels each, labeled and with the following symbols. (The idea is that these four panels form what's on the Scientist's chart.)

Panel 1: HEADER: **"Of QUANTITY"**
Unity: Circle with dots inside
Pluarlity: Dots without circle
Totalty: Circle without dots

Panel 2: HEADER: "**Of QUALITY"**
(Important: This needs to be on a gray field)
Reality: White square
Negation: Black square
Limitation: White square with black border

Panel 3: HEADER: "**Of RELATION"**
Inherence & Substience: Two blocks connected by a line
Causality & Dependence: One block with an arrow pointing to another block
Community: Two blocks connected by a two-headed arrow

Panel 4: HEADER: "**Of MODALITY"**
Possibility-Impossibility: ?
Existence-Non Existence: =
Necessity-Contingence: :

1. PERCEPTION (OVER): ALL *a posteriori* intuitions are merged with one or more of these *a priori* conceptions to form UNDERSTANDING!

Panel 5: Equation representing the cognition of "freezing":
Water-filled ice cube tray. + Thermometer reading low + Stopwatch = Ice cubes

2. CAPTION: "All the categories relate to SPACE and/or TIME."

3. CAPTION: "In the case of FREEZING, two observations linked in the same SPACE (for water and ice have the same SUBSTANCE) across successive TIMES under the condition of COLD fall into the CAUSE-AND-EFFECT category."

Panel 6: Prosecutor & Witness *(Pure Reason* 369)

4. PERCEPTION: BUT – as I said BEFORE – you can't HAVE knowledge without BOTH an intuition AND a conception – you CANNOT apply a category like CAUSE AND EFFECT to a purely INTELLECTUAL conception!

5. SCIENTIST: Such as the DEFENDANT – whom we have already established has NO SENSE DATA associated with him?

6. PERCEPTION: Yes, precisely!

MORE

SEVEN, CON'D

Panel 7: The bound-and-gagged God is furious that Kant is playing jacks at the table, ignoring the trial.

8. JUDGE (OFF): Mr. KANT?

9. KANT: Hmh? Wha?

10. JUDGE (OFF): Your WITNESS, Mr. Kant!

11. KANT: Oh…NO QUESTIONS!

12. GOD: ***>MMMMFFF!!<***

EIGHT

Panel 1: *Law & Order* panel: Just a little block that says (I will do in lettering):

Trial Part XXX
26:15:06 Hours
June the 31st

1. SFX (L&O Music): Bum-BUM!

Panel 2: The jury attentively listens to the (off-panel) witness. The jury should be made up of various people from Cognopolis – floating brains, robots, eggheads, coverall-wearing sense workers, etc.

2. SCIENTIST (OFF): The PHYSICO-THEOLOGICAL PROOF is also known as the "TELEOLOGICAL" one.

3. SCIENTIST (OFF): That IS, since the so-called "NATURAL" world manifests signs of PURPOSE or DESIGN, it must be DIRECTED by an INTELLIGENT, omnipotent BEING like the defendant!

4. SCIENTIST (OFF): How would YOU respond to that?

Panel 3: On the witness stand is an ANTIMONY – which is a figure of reason wearing TWO HEADS! He's also dressed like a college dean at graduation, in a robe – maybe a motorboard on each head, too, if you can fit it in.

5. HEAD #1: Well GEE WHIZ, I think it's a theory the Big I really should CONSIDER—

6. HEAD #2: Of COURSE you'd think that. Because you're an IDIOT.

7. PROSECUTOR (OFF): Ah—Please, you are ONE WITNESS, so I need ONE ANSWER—

Panel 4: Atop one of the REASON TOWERS, the Antimony bickers over a book on a pedestal. (*Pure Reason* 254)

8. CAPTION: "Shucks, that's not easy for us to DO, sir! In REASON TOWERS we're an ANTIMONY…"

9. HEAD #1: Gosh, don't you think the universe has a beginning in TIME … and too, limited in SPACE?

10. HEAD #2: Any HALFWIT can see that the universe is ETERNAL in time and INFINITE in space, you NO-WIT!

11. CAPTION: "—a CONTRADICTORY, but MUTUALLY PROVABLE pair of claims that reason is COMPELLED toward!"

Panel 5: Angle on Ryan as the court artist, sketching portrait of Antimony in color charcoal on a sketchpad.

12. HEAD #1: You can RESOLVE an antimony like us only by understanding how the Big I's REASON itself enhances…

13. HEAD #2: …and sometimes ALTERS our experience of objects!

MORE

EIGHT, CON'D

Panel 6: Hippie & Capitalist return from "Ayn Rand", arguing over the burning Twin Towers of 9/11 behind them.

14. CAPTION:	"Ever notice how when a REALLY TRAUMATIC EVENT happens, people see it as confirming WHAT THEY ALREADY BELIEVED TO BE TRUE IN THE FIRST PLACE?"
15. HIPPIE:	YOUR exploitative FOREIGN POLICY caused these CHICKENS to come home to ROOST!
16. CAPITALIST:	No, YOUR limp-wristed ANTI-TERRORISM POLICY got us into this mess!

NINE

RYAN: LEAVE A LITTLE BIT OF SPACE AT TOP FOR TWO CAPTIONS:

1. CAPTION: That's because, unless we're vigilant to STOP it, our reason can impose ARTIFICIAL PATTERNS on incoming data in a misguided attempt to render the EXTERNAL world as ORDERLY as the Big I's INTERNAL one!

2. CAPTION: Take CONSPIRACY THEORY, for example. The popular on-line documentary *LOOSE CHANGE* (http://www.loosechange911.com) declares that these SINISTER-SEEMING facts form a DAMNING PATTERN:

[RYAN, MIGHT AS WELL DO 2-ROWS OF 3 for PANELS 1-6]

Panel 1: Evil Bush Administration types (Cheney, Rumsfeld, etc.) sit around a table and twirl their identical evil mustaches together at the same time.

3. CAPTION: In September 2000, conservative think tank PROJECT FOR A NEW AMERICAN CENTURY (whose members include DICK CHENEY, DONALD RUMSFELD, JEB BUSH, and other Bushies) write "ANOTHER PEARL HARBOR" is necessary to rebuild America's DEFENSES.

Panel 2: A four-star general with an RC controller flies a mini-747 into a miniature building.

4. CAPTION: That OCTOBER, the Pentagon simulates a Boeing 757 smashing into a BUILDING.

Panel 3: Larry A. Silverstein proudly holds an insurance policy from AL QUEDA INSURANCE CO. (with Osama's face on it).

5. CAPTION: And less than FOUR MONTHS prior to 9/11, the owner of the Twin Towers took out a $3.5 billion TERRORISM INSURANCE policy on the WTC!

Panel 4: STAT PANEL 1 – BUT GRAY IT OUT

6. CAPTION: But New American Century never said America needed to ENGINEER such an attack in order to rejigger the military!

Panel 5: STAT PANEL 2 – BUT GRAY IT OUT

7. CAPTION: Um… Doesn't the military have, like, BOMBS and MISSILES to knock buildings down with? Wouldn't they simulate a crash just to train RESPONSES to it?

Panel 6: STAT PANEL 3 –BUT GRAY IT OUT

8. CAPTION: Since terrorists had ALREADY tried to blow up the WTC in 1993, don't you think getting insurance out against it happening AGAIN is a pretty good IDEA?

Panel 7: Antimony & Scientist

9. SCIENTIST: It is your contention that "INTELLIGENT DESIGN" is yet another EXAMPLE of reason's tendency to OVERREACH?

10. HEAD #2: THAT'S something we can BOTH agree on!

<u>TEN</u>

Panel 1: God angrily interrupts Kant.

1. GOD: Let me GUESS – you have no QUESTIONS for this witness!

2. KANT: Hey – you really ARE omniscient!

Panel 2: Scientist sits self-satisfied and smug behind his table.

3. SCIENTIST: As Mr. Kant has not seen fit to CROSS-EXAMINE any of my witnesses…

4. SCIENTIST: …the prosecution RESTS!

Panel 3: Kant, grinning, hands the judge a witness list with one name on it.

5. JUDGE: The floor is YOURS, Mr. Kant. And I must say your INACTIVITY up until this point has given your client excellent grounds for APPEAL due to INCOMPETENT COUNSEL.

6. KANT: Here's my WITNESS LIST, Your Honor!

7. JUDGE: But… There's only one NAME here!

Panel 4: Big panel as Kant points imperiously to Scientist. The gallery gasps.

8. KANT: That's because the ONLY entity I need to put on the stand…

9. KANT: …is ***PURE SPECULATIVE REASON ITSELF!!***

10. SFX (BIG): ***GASP!!***

11. VOICE (OFF, small): C'mon, like you didn't see THAT coming…

Panel 5: Scientist sits petulantly on the witness stand, his arms crossed over his chest, as Kant grills him. *(Pure Reason* XLVII)

12. KANT: So it is your assertion that empirical knowledge is a COMPOUND of that which we receive through IMPRESSIONS, and that which the faculty of cognition supplies from ITSELF.

13. SCIENTIST: Glad to see you've been paying ATTENTION!

14. KANT: Is that a YES or a NO?

15. SCIENTIST: YES! Of course, yes!

MORE

TEN, CON'D

Panel 6: Kant really gets into the guy's face. *(Pure Reason* 16-17)

16. KANT:	But WHAT, I ask you, is the nature of objects considered as things in THEMSELVES, WITHOUT reference to the receptivity of our sensibility?
17. SCIENTIST:	Well, I, er—
18. KANT:	YOU DON'T KNOW, DO YOU?!
19. SCIENTIST:	Just gimme a minute to—
20. KANT:	***ANSWER THE QUESTION!!***

ELEVEN

Panel 1: Scientist stands up yelling.

1. SCIENTIST: ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT, ***I DON'T KNOW***, OKAY?

2. SCIENTIST: The Big I has NO WAY of knowing things-in-THEMSELVES!

3. SCIENTIST: The Big I can ONLY know things as they APPEAR to him!

Panel 2: Close up of Kant pointing accusingly. (*Pure Reason* 76, 77)

4. KANT: CORRECT! And we don't even KNOW all there is to know about The BIG I, do we, Mr. Prosecutor?

5. KANT: For we intuit ourselves ONLY as we are internally affected BY ourselves!

6. KANT: "I have therefore NO KNOWLEDGE of myself as I AM, but merely as I APPEAR TO MYSELF!!"*

7. CAPTION (small): *: I.K., *CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON* (1781)

Panel 3: Pull back from the courthouse, to encompass the sprawl of Cognopolis herself.

8. KANT (in courthouse): In FACT, your whole JUSTICE SYSTEM – All of Cognopolis – The "OLD BOYS' NETWORK" of senses, understanding and REASON…

9. KANT (in courthouse): …ALL it knows is limitative conceptions … SENSUOUS EXISTENCES … **PHENOMENA!**

Panel 4: Pull back even further and show that Cognopolis is a brain-shaped SPACE STATION (the top is a clear dome through which we can see the skyline) floating in a sea of DARK GRAY (not even any stars) … Marked "**NOUMENA".** *(Pure Reason* 161)

10. KANT (in dome): "But this land is an ISLAND, and enclosed by Nature HERSELF within UNCHANGEABLE LIMITS."

11. KANT (in dome): "It is the land of TRUTH (an attractive word), surrounded by a wide and stormy OCEAN … the region of ILLUSION!"*

12. CAPTION (small): *: Ibid

TWELVE

Panel 1: A young floating-brain couple leaves a Cognopolis movie theater – where was showing a 1950s-type horror movie called "**IT CAME FROM NOUMENA",** depicting a giant black blob monster thing menacing the city. (*Pure Reason* 150)

1. CAPTION: "NOUMENAL reality – NON-SENSUAL reality – will always be little more than a source of CONJECTURE and SPECULATION to the Big I."

2. CAPTION: "We are just lucky that the empirically determined consciousness of the Big I's OWN EXISTENCE proves the existence of an eternal reality AT ALL."

Panel 2: Kant gestures at God, who sits at the defense table and beams as innocently as possible, halo burning bright.

3. KANT: Isn't it TRUE, Mr. Prosecutor, that all speculative reason can PROVE is that a Supreme and All-sufficient Being like my client, IF he exists, is NOUMENAL -- BEYOND THE REALM OF SENSUOUS EXPERIENCE…

4. KANT: …which is EXACTLY what HE has maintained ALL ALONG?

Panel 3: Kant delivers the *coup de grace* to the Scientist.

5. KANT: In other words … While the Big I cannot prove that my client EXISTS…

6. KANT: …he cannot prove that my client DOES NOT EXIST, either!

7. KANT: Is that not RIGHT, sir?

Panel 4: Close on the prosecutor, defiantly wrestling with his answer.

NO COPY

Panel 5: STAT PANEL

NO COPY

Panel 6: STAT PANEL

NO COPY

Panel 7: At last he droops his head in defeat.

8. SCIENTIST (small): Yes.

Panel 8: Beaming, Kant faces the judge.

9. KANT: The defense RESTS!

THIRTEEN

Panel 1: *Law & Order* panel: Just a little block that says (I will do in lettering):

Closing Statements
11:35:42 Hours
July the 3rd

Panel 2: Kant addresses the jury.

1. KANT: Ladies and Gentlemen of the JURY…

2. KANT: Mr. Prosecutor is RIGHT when says that, as a matter of PURE REASON, we do not have the slightest ground to assume in an absolute manner that the OBJECT of the idea of a SUPREME BEING is my client.

Panel 3: Inside a clockwork church, where clockwork toy parishioners look at a clockwork priest that has fallen over, and is emitting sparks. Its front panel has opened in the front, revealing all the gears and such inside.

3. CAPTION: "But while REASON has wrought many WONDERFUL things in this world, we cannot allow it and its offspring, SCIENCE, to create a CLOCKWORK world where HUMAN FREEDOM has no place."

Panel 4: An axe murderer chases a woman down the street.

4. CAPTION: "WHERE in Mr. PROSECUTOR'S world is there a place for such a thing as HAPPINESS—the condition of a RATIONAL BEING IN THE WORLD, in whose whole EXISTENCE everything goes according to WISH and WILL?"

5. MURDERER: Going CHOPPY-CHOP makes ME happy!

Panel 5: God suddenly appears before the axe murderer, knocking him down. Woman is in "My *Hero!"* stance.

6. GOD: AH, but you're reckoned without ME, my homicidal friend!

7. GOD: <u>I</u>, God, am the IDEAL of the HIGHEST GOOD (*summum bonum)*, against which all LEGITIMATE HAPPINESS must be MEASURED!

8. GOD: And <u>I</u> say AXE MURDERS ain't GOOD!

Panel 6: Fred as court stenographer, dutifully typing down everything Kant says. *(Practical Reason* 131-2)

9. KANT (OFF): The HIGHEST GOOD is possible in the world ONLY on the supposition of a SUPREME CAUSE of nature which has a causality corresponding to the MORAL disposition.

MORE

THIRTEEN, CON'D

Panel 7: Kant brings his fist down on the railing of the jury box – they listen intently. *(Practical Reason* 132)

10. KANT: Therefore, it is MORALLY NECESSARY to assume the existence of MY CLIENT!*

11. CAPTION (small): *: I.K., *Critique of PRACTICAL Reason* (1788)

FOURTEEN

Panel 1: *Law & Order* panel: Just a little block that says (I will do in lettering):

Verdict
15:05:22 Hours
July the 3rd

Panel 2: The bailiff hands the judge a piece of paper.

1. JUDGE: Has the jury reached a VERDICT?

Panel 3: God sweats nervously. Kant comforts him.

2. FOREWOMAN (OFF): We HAVE, Your Honor.

Panel 4: The FOREWOMAN, a female (two-headed) antimony, reads the verdict.

3. HEAD #1: We, the jury, on the FIRST and ONLY count of the indictment…

4. HEAD #2: … find the defendant, the creator and architect of the universe, the Supreme, all-sufficient and absolutely necessary BEING…

Panel 5: God leaps out of his seat, pumping his fists into the air. The gallery erupts in applause behind him.

5. FOREWOMAN (OFF): …NOT GUILTY beyond a REASONABLE DOUBT of NOT EXISTING!

6. GOD (BIG): ***JES!***

Panel 6: God excitedly shakes Kant's hand.

7. GOD: Thank YOU, Mr. Kant! I couldn't have done it WITHOUT you!

8. KANT: My pleasure, sir. Any time.

Panel 7: Kant hands God his bill. God takes one look at it and has a heart attack.

9. KANT: Oh, and before I FORGET…

10. KANT: …here's my BILL!

11. GOD: Wha-? AAAAGH! Gak!

Panel 8: A bunch of people, including Kant, have gathered around God's dead body. The bailiff takes His pulse.

12. BAILIFF: God is DEAD!

13. CAPTION: Ba-dump-BUMP!